His Majesties DECLARATION

For the Dissolution of His late

Privy-Council,

AND

For Constituting a New one,

Made in the Council-Chamber

At WHITEHALL,

April the Twentieth, 1679.

By His Majesties special Command.

LONDON,

Printed by *John Bill*, *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1679.

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By Dy Gregory Dexter Commissioner.

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At the Court at *Whitehall*,
April 20th. 1679.

His Majesty

Having caused the Privy-Council to meet Extraordinarily this Day, was pleased to Order the Lord Chancellor of *England* to Read to them the following

DECLARATION.

My Lords,

HIs Majesty hath called you together at this Time, to communicate unto you a Resolution he hath taken in a matter of great Importance to his Crown and Government, and which he hopes will prove of the greatest Satisfaction and Advantage to his Kingdoms in all Affairs hereafter, both at Home and Abroad; and therefore he doubts not of your Approbation, however you may seem concerned in it.

In the first place, his Majesty gives you all Thanks for your Service to him here, and for all the good Advices you have given him, which might have been more frequent, if the great Number of this Council had not made it unfit for the Secrecy and Dispatch that are necessary in

many great Affairs. This forced him to use a smaller Number of you in a Foreign Committee, and sometimes the Advices of some few among them (upon such Occasions) for many Years past. He is sorry for the ill success he has found in this Course, and sensible of the ill Posture of Affairs from that, and some unhappy Accidents, which have raised great Jealousies and Dissatisfaction among his good Subjects, and thereby left the Crown and Government in a Condition too Weak for those Dangers we have Reason to fear both at Home and Abroad.

Yet his Majesty hopes may be yet prevented by a Course of Wise and steady Counsels for the future, and these Kingdoms grow again to make such a Figure as they have formerly done in the World, and as they may always do, if Our Union and Conduct were equal to Our Force. To this end, he hath resolved to lay aside the Use he may have hitherto made of any single Ministry or private Advices, or Foreign Committees for the general direction of his Affairs, and to Constitute such a Privy-Council, as may not onely by its Number be fit for the Consultation and Digestion of all Business both Domestick and Foreign, but also by the Choice of them out of the several Parts this State is composed of, may be the best Informed in the true Constitutions of it, and thereby the most Able to Counsel him in all the Affairs and Interests of this Crown

and

and Nation. And by the constant Advice of such a Council, His Majesty is resolved hereafter to Govern His Kingdoms; together with the frequent Use of his great Council of Parliament. Which he takes to be the true Ancient Constitution of this State and Government.

Now for the greater Dignity of this Council, his Majesty Resolves their constant Number shall be limited to that of Thirty. And for their greater Authority, there shall be Fifteen of his Chief Officers who shall be Privy-Counsellers by their places. And for the other Fifteen, he will choose Ten out of the several Ranks of the Nobility, and five Commoners of the Realm, whose known Abilities, Interest and Esteem in the Nation, shall render them without all Suspicion of either Mistaking or Betraying the True Interests of the Kingdom, and consequently of Advising him ill.

In the First place therefore, and to take Care of the Church, his Majesty will have the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury and Bishop of London for the time being; and to Inform him well in what concerns the Laws, the Lord Chancellor, and one of the Lord Chief Justices; For the Navy and Stores (wherein consists the chief Strength and Safety of the Kingdom) the Admiral and Master of the Ordnance; For the Treasury, the Treasurer and Chancellor of the Exchequer (or whenever any of these Charges

are in Commission, then the First Commissioner to serve here in their room; the rest of the fifteen shall be the Lord Privy Seal, the Master of the Horse, Lord Steward and Lord Chamberlain of his Houshold, the Groom of the Stole, and the two Secretaries of State. And these shall be all the Offices of his Kingdom to which the Dignity of Privy Councellor shall be annexed. The others his Majesty has Resolved, and hopes he has not chosen ill. His Majesty intends besides, to have such Dukes of his Blood as he shall at any time call to this Board, being here in Court. A President of the Council to preside he shall find it necessary, and the Secretary of Scotland when any such shall be here. But there being uncertain, he reckons not of the constant number of Fifteen, which shall never be exceeded.

Thanks be to this new Council, his Majesty hath now Resolved to dissolve this Old one, and does hereby dissolve it, and from this time excuses your further Attendance here, but with his repeated Thanks for your Service hitherto, and with the assurance of his Satisfaction in you so far, that he should not have parted with you, but to make way for this New Constitution, which he takes to be, as to the Number and Choice, the most proper and necessary for the Ends he intends them. And as most of you have Offices in his Service, and all

all of you particular Shares in his Favour and Good Opinion for the time you will continue to exercise and deserve them, with the same Diligence and good Affections that you have hitherto done, and with confidence of his Majesties Kindness to you, and all those Commands you shall receive of it upon other occasions.

Therefore upon the present Dissolution of this Council, his Majesty Appoints and Commands all those Officers he hath Named, to attend him here to morrow at Nine in the Morning, as his Privy-Council, together with those other Persons he designs to make up the Number, and to each of whom he has already Signed particular Letters to that purpose, and Commands the Lord Chancellor to see them Issued out accordingly, which is the Form he intends to use, and that hereafter they shall be Signed in Council, so that nothing may be done unadvisedly in the Choice of any Person to a Charge of so great Dignity and Importance to the Kingdom.

Names of the Lords OF His Majesties Most Honourable Privy-Council.

His Highness Prince *Rupert*.

William Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

Heneage Lord *Finch*, Lord Chancellour of England.

Anthony Earl of *Shaftsbury*, Lord-President of the Council.

Arthur Earl of *Anglesey*, Lord Privy-Seal.

Christopher Duke of *Albemarle*.

James Duke of *Monmouth*, Master of the Horse.

Henry Duke of *Newcastle*.

John Duke of *Lauderdaile*, Secretary of State for Scotland.

James Duke of *Ormond*, Lord Steward of the Houshold.

Charles Lord Marques of *Winchester*.

Henry Lord Marques of *Worcester*.

Henry Earl of *Arlington*, Lord Chamberlain of the Houshold.

James Earl of *Salisbury*.

John

John Earl of *Bridgewater*.
Robert Earl of *Sunderland*, one of His Majesties Principal Secretaries of State.
Arthur Earl of *Essex*, first Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.
John Earl of *Bathe*, Groom of the Stole.
Thomas Lord Viscount *Falcnberg*,
George Lord Viscount *Halifax*.
Henry Lord Bishop of *London*.
John Lord *Roberts*.
Denzill Lord *Holles*.
William Lord *Russel*.
William Lord *Cavendish*.
Henry Coventry Esq; one of His Majesties Principal Secretaries of State.
Sir *Francis North* Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Common-Pleas.
Sir *Henry Capell* Knight of the Bath, first Commissioner of the Admiralty.
Sir *John Ernle* Knight, Chancellour of the Exchequer.
Sir *Thomas Chicheley* Knight, Master of the Ordnance.
Sir *William Temple* Baronet.
Edward Seymour Esquire.
Henry Powle Esquire.

Whitehall, April 21. 1679.

HIS Majesty being this day in Council, did cause such of the aforementioned Lords, and others, who were then present, to be Sworn Privy-Counsellors; which being done, they took their Places accordingly.

His Majesty was also pleased to Declare, That He intended to make

Sir *Henry Capell* Knight of the *Bath*,
Daniel Finch Esquire,
Sir *Thomas Lee*,
Sir *Humphrey Winch*, } Baronets.
Sir *Thomas Meers*,
Vaughan
& } Esquires.
Hales

Commissioners for the Execution of the Office of Lord High Admiral of *England*.

And His Majesty being afterwards come into the House of Peers, in His Royal Robes, and the House of Commons attending, His Majesty was pleased to make this Speech,

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Thought it requiſite to acquaint you with what I have done now this day; which is, That I have Eſtabliſhed a new Privy-Council, the conſtant number of which ſhall never exceed Thirty.

I have made choice of ſuch Perſons as are Worthy and able to Adviſe Me, and am Reſolved in all My Weighty and Important Affairs, next to the Advice of My Great Council in Parliament (which I ſhall very often Conſult with) to be Adviſed by this Privy-Council.

I could not make ſo great a Change without acquainting both Houſes of Parliament.

And I deſire you all to apply your ſelves heartily, as I ſhall do, to thoſe things which are neceſſary for the good and ſafety of the Kingdom, and that no time may be loſt in it.

FINIS.